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CHINA'S NEEDS.
THE HELP THAT JAPAN CAN RENDER.
(CONTRIBUTED.)

There has been so much talk of Republics, democracies, and constitutional monarchies in China and elsewhere of late years, and with such apparent ignorance of what these respectively mean or embody; and there has been so much misunderstanding in the North and in the South, in the East and in the West of China, as to what China really needs, that I am emboldened, out of a very sincere love for China and her people, to set out a few facts and make a few deductions drawn from observations made during a long residence in the South, some serious months in the North of China, and the perusal of some of the later books on China.

First of all, I suppose the most exhaustive and careful analysis of modern conditions is to be found in Mr. Putnam Weale's book, "The Fight for the Republic in China," and few can question his ability as a writer or his intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the "wheels within wheels" which revolve in Peking. But I find him unconvincing on the question of Japan.

One of the most striking points in his book is the careful analysis of the famous "Kang Yu" memorial and of the masterly and scholarly essay of Liang Shao-yi, though it is really more than an essay. These two documents give seriously to think, but both of them miss the point.

Indeed, the whole quarrel between the North and the South misses the point. Neither North nor South realises the full vital necessity of decentralization. Their mutual quarrels are only acrimonious—even sentimental—after all. History—world history—is repeating itself, and China must not, dare not, fight for the possession of a rainbow's end.

If the South would abandon the idea of an alleged violation of the Constitutional Law as originally passed—or alleged to have been passed—and such hair-splitting; and if the North would see that the whole of China cannot be governed from Peking; and if both sides would realize that a reasonable amount of autonomy or Home Rule in every province would meet the case, there would be no end of these troubles. China must not be disintegrated, in the interests of all parties all over the world; and, above all, in her own interest.

In all the recent books, including Mr. Putnam Weale's book, the bogey of the menace of Japan is paramount. But it is a menace. There is the rub. The menace to China is not from Japan. The menace is from Russia (now Germanised), whence the menace to China has always been. Mr. Parker's book, Mr. Bland's book, and Dr. Richard's book, all tell us that, and history shows it clearly and convincingly to be so.

A lot of mistrust of Japan has been engendered in China of late—and engendered by the Germans; there is no doubt of that. From the British point of view we have little reason to distrust the Japanese, for they have been good and faithful allies to us. They pricked for us the Russian bubble, if they never did anything else.

And what is the state of China to-day? Torn by internal dissensions, unable to keep order in her own country, China, as a Republic with a Central Government in Peking, has failed, lamentably and ignominiously.

I hold no brief for a Constitutional Monarchy, nor for a Republic, but I urge that North and South should realize that if China cannot manage her own affairs someone must do it for her—and that someone can only be Japan.

I also urge that she should try to set her own house in order by giving—whether under a Republic or not—a measure of autonomy to the Provinces, under a redistribution (if need be) of the present Provincial system. After all, under the old Imperial régime there was more provincial autonomy than there is now; and things did not work so very badly. Let there be no marked line between North and South or East and West.

I do not believe that China needs to worry about Manchuria or Mongolia. She is big enough as it is; her eighteen provinces are a handful. Let Japan look after Manchuria, and Mongolia, and see that the old menace from the North and the new one from the East are kept out of China's life and integrity, checked if must be.

Centuries ago, China's trade came in from the west, from India. I can see no reason now why this should not still be so. The life-blood of a nation is trade. It is hard to keep away from a hobby, if one is a persistent and confirmed rider of hobby-horses, and so I came back about my old battle-cries of Burma-Yunnan as the trade routes of the future through the Chinese Western Provinces.

This is a digression, perhaps, but it means that, having given Japan an outlet and confining Japan to the North and North-west for that outlet, China will have not only her ancient menace controlled and checked but will be rid of the bogey of Japan in the South and South-west, and, indeed, in all of the famous eighteen Provinces of the Middle Kingdom.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

THE RAIDER WOLF.
CAPTURE OF THE "HITACHI MARU."

An account of the sea-raider *Wolf* has been given by Major J. W. Flood, Australian Medical Corps, who was for seven months a prisoner and one who was released by reason of the *Wolf* going ashore in Denmark. He reports that after the capture of the *Matunga* the vessel he was on, they steamed for eight days up to the north of Dutch New Guinea, where they entered a land-locked harbour having an entrance of about a quarter of a mile. From our harbour we journeyed to Singapore, where, on the evening of September 5th, mines were laid. This sowing finished the stock of mines they had on board the *Wolf*.

Going south again towards Colombo we captured the Japanese steamer *Hitachi Maru* on September 26th. She was sighted by the seaplane about eleven in the morning, and was stopped at 2.30. Two shots were fired across her bows, but the captain showed some resistance, and fourteen more shots were fired at the gun in her poop and at her wireless room, with the result that sixteen Japanese were killed. The Japanese crew was transferred to the *Wolf*, and the two ships steamed to some islands where some of the captured cargo was taken on board. After about a week the *Wolf* went off, leaving all her prisoners on board the *Hitachi Maru*, and two days later the seaplane arrived, telling us to clear out as quickly as we could. It was too late that evening to do so, but at day-break on the morning we left, and after steaming for about ten days came to a group of islands, where we were picked up by the *Wolf*. She had been out looking for a collier, so that the *Hitachi Maru* could be coaled, and thus sent to Germany with her valuable cargo of rubber, tea, and copper. She had been unsuccessful, and consequently when all the passengers had been taken on board the *Wolf*, the *Hitachi Maru* was taken out, fifteen miles and sunk with more than three-quarters of the cargo still on board.

The *Wolf* was a cargo boat of about 6,000 tons register, and carried seven six-inch guns, four torpedo tubes, two masts and funnels which could be hoisted or lowered at will, emplacements for four machine-guns, and a seaplane, which was largely responsible for the capture of several vessels. Most of the victims were caught through the interception of wireless messages, for the *Wolf* had two installations going night and day, always receiving but never sending messages. In the Indian Ocean she was receiving Press news in four different languages. The Germans laid 100 mines off Singapore. Major Flood described the capture of a vessel near Sunday Island, at a time when the *Wolf* had no steam and the victim might easily have escaped had she been aware of this fact.

GERMAN RAIDING SCOUT SEIZED.

A message from Washington dated March 20th, states that an American warship seized and took to a Pacific port the 600-ton motor-boat *Agassiz* which sailed from a Mexican port, with Germans and German flags, rifles, and pistols on board. Although small the vessel was capable of sinking any merchant ship in the Pacific. It is alleged that it was fitted out from the West Coast of Mexico, and was manned by a German crew. The manner in which it secured clearance papers is unknown, and it is said that an investigation on this point is being conducted by the Department of Justice.

Inevitably, China will have, as she has now, to turn to Japan for the money to pay her way at all. There is no other interested nation that can lend her a shilling. If, in spite of the hysteria of the South and the obstinacy of the North, these two could be somehow welded into a genuine alliance, China can have hope.

One last word. Let China concentrate on railways and roads. Let her have not only direct railway communication between Peking and Canton, Chang-king and Hankow, Yunnan and Canton, but let her make roads, roads, roads. She has the labour, unlimited, and it only needs the will. One has only to read the wonderful appreciations of the work done by the Chinese Labour Corps in Europe to realize what a Chinaman can do. There are 80,000 of these men who will return skilled in road-making, railway construction, and harbour work. In proper hands, there is nothing that John Chinaman cannot do. Information devotes a leader to Chinese labour in France in which the following remarks occur: "Of all the foreign labour troops employed in France, that of the Chinese has proved most satisfactory. The state of mind of all their employers agree in this. They are patient, attentive, untiring at their work and very robust. These qualities cause them to be much appreciated in all the factories making war material where they are employed."

It is, perhaps, only a dream, but China opened up with good railways and good roads would be one of the finest places in the world for the development of her vast natural resources. She needs money for all this, and there is only Japan who can spare it. Japan must have something in return, not only for her money but for her guarantee of China's security. Surely that is only fair!

"These books are:—*The Fight for the Republic in China*, by Mr. Putnam Weale; *The Fight for the Republic in China*, by Mr. J. O. P. Bland; *Over Five Years in China*, by Dr. Timothy Richard; and *China*, by Mr. S. H. Parker (a new edition of his former work of the same name).

PEKING NOTES.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
PEKING, May 5th.

Little that is enlightening can be said or written about the present political situation, for the simple reason that uncertainty prevails with regard to the military operations in the South and secrecy is still maintained with respect to the negotiations between Japanese and Chinese representatives. Taking the latter first, it is understood that an agreement between the Chinese and Japanese military representatives has been reached and that this will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval and embodiment in a treaty or, rather, agreement. While it is true that little or nothing has been definitely stated regarding these negotiations, except certain negative statements, it must be conceded that the Chinese have not developed the intense feeling that distinguished them at the time of the famous "Twenty-One Demands." Curiosity is, perhaps, the dominant feeling. Patriotism, if existent, has not been stirred. With several exceptions the people seem to have become reconciled to an ever-increasing degree of Japanese intervention. They seem to realise that, left to themselves, they can do practically nothing, or worse than nothing. Their internal divisions, their internecine strife, their eternal political bickerings, and, above all, their lack of faith in themselves and in each other make united thought or action impossible. China has had her opportunities, but up to the present she has not utilised them, and the question, therefore, arises—How long can she be allowed to mismanage her own affairs as she is doing? The obvious answer is—Until the interests of the world are thereby adversely affected or, at any rate, not benefitted as they should be by the resources of China. If Japan reforms the currency of China she will have done a good thing. If she restores order in China she will have done an even better thing. But if she makes China contribute her proper quota to the world's resources and throw her weight into the struggle for civilisation and democracy Japan will have deserved well of the world.

Undoubtedly the Government was perturbed a few day days ago when it learned of the defeat of Chang Hui-chi in the South. This was brought about by a strategy which is worthy of the epic battles of earlier years. Apparently, the northern troops were induced to pursue fleeing Southerners who were dropping loot as they ran, and when they had been enticed a considerable distance and had lost all semblance of order their enemies re-formed and inflicted a crushing defeat upon the unwary Government troops, who were forced to abandon their advanced positions. Mutual recriminations followed, each commander throwing the blame upon the other for failure to act in concert. This set-back led to a reconsideration of the plan of campaign. For a few days the advance into Kwangtung was arrested, but it seems that, stiffened by the arrival of the Fengtien troops, the Government Armies will once more assume the offensive.

About this time, also, there is a renewed interest in Parliament, which some sixteen Tientsin-made the subject of telegraphic representations to the President and Premier, suggesting that it should be convened at an early date in order to ensure the constitutional election of the President and also to ensure the constitutional government of the country. Whether this is another method of calling the country to witness their constitutionalism or not cannot safely be asserted. At any rate, the Tientsin were due to take place next month, and it is doubtful if the acceleration of plans by a few weeks will effect any improvement or inspire Southerners with any further belief in the political faith of the Tientsins.

It does not improve matters to learn that reports are received from the North-ern frontier as to Bolshevik activities in this region. Sinking is said to be particularly fruitful in this respect. But residence in Peking and a knowledge of official reports from the more distant provinces tends to scepticism. It would not be wise to discredit entirely such reports, but they may be described as exaggerated.

Meanwhile, the Government is hard-pressed to make ends meet. From almost every place come requests for money with which to equip armies fighting rebels, and to raise forces to suppress bandits. Another loan has been negotiated with Japanese for twenty million dollars based on the security of the telegraphs, and an evening paper has taken the occasion to publish a list of loans contracted with Japanese during the past few months, showing an indebtedness of over one hundred million dollars. For years China has been understood to be on the verge of bankruptcy, but these forecasts have been falsified as thoroughly as were those made in respect of the European countries engaged in the great war. Still, each successive loan weakens China's credit, and it is to be anticipated that anxious creditors may decide to appoint an Official Receiver to administer the estate. The only competent Official Receiver at the present moment is, in the language of the Chinese Press, a certain country.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

TRADE OF HONGKONG.

The following statistics are taken from the fortnightly prices current and market report of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce dated May 17th:—

The stocks on May 10th were 200 chests of Patna, 103 of Benares, 1354 Malwa, and 12 of Persian and Turkish. In the preceding fortnight there were no importations and the exportations totalled 86 chests of Persian and Turkish.

Exports.—There is no change to report in Feathers, and there is nothing doing in Ginger. In Star Anised Oil there was small business, and in Saigon Cassia there is nothing doing.

Imports.—In Cotton Yarn a slightly better feeling prevails, but sales continue to be made on a small scale at erratic prices. Quotations are:—No. 10s at \$178 to \$203, No. 12s at \$187 to \$210, No. 16s at \$212 to \$225, No. 20s at \$215 to \$240. Arrivals 500 bales. Sales 2,000 bales. Shipments 500 bales. Unsold stock 8,000 bales. Bargains 13,000 bales.

In Woollens there is nothing to report. In Raw Cottons, with the exception of a few small lots of cheap Tonkin Cotton done recently at about \$45 per picul, no business has transpired for some time past. Quotations are entirely normal at \$48/\$58 for China qualities. In Metals the market is very quiet, and there is no change in Petroleum products. For Coal it is inadvisable to quote, and in Sugar the market is dull. In Saltpetre there is no quotation, and there are no stocks.

FLOUR.

Stock: About 170,000 sacks. Quotations:—Japanese 2nd Patent, \$3.66; Japanese 3rd Patent, \$3.60; Japanese Straight, \$3.60; Shanghai Flour, \$3.50; Australian No. 1, \$3.76; Australian No. 2, \$3.66; and Australian No. 3, \$3.50.

RELIGION.

Mr. Kyle, who has returned to Peking after his long period of detention by the brigands of Henan looks as if he has suffered somewhat by his privations and hardships. He concedes that the brigands fed him as well as they could, but his great grievance was being made to sing and to whistle for the entertainment of gaping villages. It was mighty lucky, he adds, that they did not think of making him dance. That would have been the last straw.

In this connection it is interesting to note the announcement of the Peking-Hankow Railway that they have attached an armoured train to mail trains with a guard of twenty soldiers in each as a protection against brigands, who attempted to hold up a train on one of the branch lines of this railway. While it is a praiseworthy precaution on the part of the administration of this Railway it is eloquent of the state of the country.

Even near Peking there are amateur bandits, men who take advantage of travellers on lonely roads. The other day a number of these bamboo bandits, as they are called here, attempted to stop a motor-car coming in from the hot springs at Tangshan, with several foreigners. This was unusual boldness. Numbers and a big stock of bamboo, evidently gave them courage. Fortunately, the chauffeur was an old soldier. He was not scared and drove right through them, knocking over one or two, who will probably ponder over the unwisdom of tackling automobiles in such a crude way.

THOUSANDS DIE OF STARVATION.

A few days ago I was in conversation with a missionary who had returned from a visit to the interior, whither he had gone to distribute some five thousand dollars handed to him by the President of the Flood Relief Commission. The tales he related were most appalling. He tells me that thousands of people are dying of sheer starvation, and the relief conveyed to the destitute communities only touches the fringe of their dire necessities. The little food that they had in the winter and the spring has been used up, and they have no further supplies until the next harvest. Much is being done to assist them, but ever so much more is needed to deal adequately with the terrible situation.

VISITING GENERAL.

General Evans, of the Philippine Command of the U.S. Army, is here on a visit of inspection. He reached Peking from Tientsin on Saturday, and has been busy ever since. He is to have an audience with the President to-morrow.

WAR WORK.

The Americans are preparing for a great Red Cross fete on May 15th, and are advertising the event and enlisting support in their characteristic forceful style. On Monday afternoon there was an interesting exhibition of the work done by the ladies during April. This was under the auspices of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild. Some 6,000 articles were made in the month, a tribute to the conscientiousness of the British ladies here.

CHEFOO BREAKWATER.

Chefoo breakwater was talked about for many years before an actual commencement was made with the work and has had many vicissitudes. It is now assured of completion. By an arrangement with the Chinese Government, a monthly appropriation of £11,400 from the Chinese Maritime Customs will be made to cover the cost of the work from January 1st, 1918, to July 31st, 1919. This should be welcome news for the British, whose interests here are paramount, or should be. This ensures that Chefoo will remain one of the principal ports in North China.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

WHIT MONDAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all FIRE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS TO-DAY (MONDAY), the 20th May, 1918.

By Order,
A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.
[2031]

MARINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

WHIT MONDAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all MARINE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS TO-DAY (MONDAY), the 20th May, 1918.

By Order,
A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.
[2032]

THE "STAR" FERRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWENTIETH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., on THURSDAY, the 30th May, 1918, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1917.

The REGISTER OF SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from FRIDAY, the 24th May, to THURSDAY, the 30th May, 1918, inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
W. S. BROWN,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 18th May, 1918. [2033]



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

TENDERS are invited for the supply of Carpenters, Caulkers, Platers, Plumbers, Painters, Scurpers, Shoemakers or Leather workers to H.M. Naval Yard.

Forms of Tender can be obtained at the Chief Constructor's Office, H.M. Naval Yard, Hongkong, and should be filled in and returned as indicated in Tender Form not later than Noon FRIDAY, 21st May, 1918.

E. G. KENNETH,
Chief Constructor.

H.M. Dockyard,
Hongkong, 18th May, 1918. [2034]



PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on MONDAY, the 27th day of May, 1918, at 3 P.M., at the Office of the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, by Order of His Excellency the GOVERNOR, of One Lot of CROWN LAND at Repulse Bay, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a CROWN RENT to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Block	Boundary Measurements	Containing Acres	Approx. Area	Approx. Area	Approx. Area
Lot 1	As per plan	160,000	314	2,000	

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship "VAN WAERWICK" having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns and/or other Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Ltd., whence and/or from the Wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the 25th May, at 5 P.M., will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns where they will be examined.

Claims against the Steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 18th May, 1918. [2036]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

THE STORE of GRACA & Co., dealers in POSTAGE STAMPS, FLOWER SEEDS, TOYS, &c.,

has been REMOVED to No. 10, WYNDHAM STREET.

Hongkong, 20th May, 1918. [184]

INTIMATIONS

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FORTY-FIFTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the Society will be held at the Head Office, Nos. 3 and 4, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on THURSDAY, the 23rd May, 1918, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statements of Account to 31st December, 1917, and of declaring Dividends, etc.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Society will be CLOSED from 13th May to 23rd May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
C. H. P. HAY,
per pro. General Manager.
Hongkong, 11th May, 1918. [1836]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FORTY-NINTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the Company will be held at its Head Office, Nos. 3 and 4, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on THURSDAY, the 23rd May, 1918, at 12.30 P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statements of Account to 31st December, 1917, and of declaring Dividends, etc.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 13th May to 23rd May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
C. H. P. HAY,
per pro. General Manager.
Hongkong, 11th May, 1918. [1899]

BRITISH TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIFTY-SECOND ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the Company will be held at its Head Office, Nos. 3 and 4, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on THURSDAY, the 23rd May, 1918, at 12.45 P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statements of Account to 31st December, 1917, and of declaring Dividends, etc.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 13th May to 23rd May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
C. H. P. HAY,
per pro. General Manager.
Hongkong, 11th May, 1918. [1897]

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Payment of Interim Dividend on Shares for the year ending 30th June, 1918.

THE BOARD having declared an INTERIM DIVIDEND of One Shilling per Share, free of Income-Tax, for the year ending 30th June, 1918, holders of Bearer Shares and holders of Dividend Warrants received from London on account of Registered Shares, will be paid their dividends on presenting No. 11 Coupon of the Bearer Shares, and Dividend Warrants on Registered Shares, to either of the following Banks at Shanghai or Tientsin:

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
THE CHINESE BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA.
THE RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK.
THE BARQUE BEIGE POTRETTI & LANGE.

The Payments will be made in either Dollars or Taels as the holder may wish, at the buying rate of exchange of the day.

GENERAL MANAGER,
THE KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION.
Hongkong, 14th May, 1918. [2013]

MOTOR CAR TRIPS IN KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORY.

THE "STAR" FERRY CO., LTD., undertake the conveyance of Motor Cars (at owner's risk) between Hongkong and Kowloon in a special crane lighter. Cradles for Motor Cars provided.

Fares each trip—\$1.00 per car—to be paid to lighterman.

Telephone K7 (Shipping Department), when required. [2032]

NOTICE.

CARVALHO & COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mr. HENRY ARMAND HENRIKSON CASTRO has This Day CEASED to be the Manager of our Business at Hongkong and his authority to sign our Firm Name has been withdrawn.

Dated this 6th day of May, 1918.
CARVALHO & CO. [1974]



NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian, desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE, 1918.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

INTIMATIONS

FAR EAST OXYGEN AND ACETYLENE COMPANY, LTD.

WE beg to inform our Customers that our Kennedy Town Factory is now in full working order and we are able to undertake, as before the War, all kinds of Ships' Repairs and Welding, also to furnish Oxygen and Acetylene Gas in any quantity.

FAR EAST OXYGEN & ACETYLENE COMPANY, LTD.,
FLOQUET & KNOTH, Agents.
1, Princes' Building,
Hongkong, 14th May, 1918. [2024]

NOTICE.

WE HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that as from 1st of April, 1918, the name of THE STAR FORSTER CO., LTD., has been changed to—

THE ANGLO-SIAM CORPORATION, LIMITED,
the constitution and management of THE ANGLO-SIAM CORP. RATION, LTD., being exactly the same as in the case of THE STAR FORSTER CO., LTD.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., Agents.
Hongkong, 17th May, 1918. [2026]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held in the Large Dining Room on FRIDAY, the 31st May, 1918, at 5.30 P.M.

BUSINESS:
To confirm the Resolution passed on the 16th inst. as Posted in the Hall of the Club.

By Order,
E. DES VIGUEUX,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 17th May, 1918. [2027]

WANTED

LADY STENOGRAPHER.
Apply to—
Box No. 17,
Care of "Daily Press" (Office).
[2021]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

COMFORTABLY FURNISHED ROOMS, with Good Bath-rooms and wide verandahs. To Let from 10th of May, 1918, to end of June, \$100 per month.

Mrs. NIVEN,
Narcissus Bay, Wei-hai-wei.
[2012]

TO LET.

COMMODOUS and well-fitted SHOP in Alexandra Buildings.

Apply—
SECRETARY,
A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
[1897]

TO LET.

NO. 1, CANNARVON ROAD, Kowloon, well-built EUROPEAN TWO-STORY HOUSE, good locality.

Apply to—
YU KAM HING,
c/o Messrs. JOHNSON, SPOKES & MASTER.
[1056]

TO LET.

RESIDENTIAL FLAT in Prince's Building.

Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.
[1875]

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry. Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
THE MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.,
40, Connaught Road Central.
[900]

TO LET.

HOUSES on Shamien, Canton.

No. 57, THE PRAX, LUSTLEIGH.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.
[18]

TO LET.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Kowloon.

Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings.
[2000]

FOR SALE.

"GALESEND," 102, THE PRAX, SIX ROOMS.

Apply—
C. H. GALE,
P.W.D.
[1958]

INTIMATION

BY APPOINTMENT.

WATSON'S STONE

GINGER-BEER

The only fermented Stone Ginger-Beer in the Far East.

The real charm of Stone Ginger-Beer is flavour produced by partial fermentation; without this no Stone Ginger-Beer can be said to be genuine.

\$1.00 per dozen.



A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

STERILIZED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

TEL. 436.

[18]

DEATH.

HUTCHINGS.—On the 18th instant, at the Government Civil Hospital, JAMES HUTCHINGS, P.W.D., aged 50 years.
[2030]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VIGUEUX ROAD, C.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FINSBURY SQUARE, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 20TH MAY, 1918

A ONE-SIDED GAME.

The vast majority of our fellow-countrymen must have come to the conclusion long ago that the discussion of peace-terms with the Central European Powers was not merely useless, but mischievous.

Our war-aims were set forth in the clearest possible language by Mr. ASQUITH when Great Britain accepted the challenge thrown down by Germany in August, 1914, and they were of such a nature that they could only be achieved by the military overthrow of Germany or by a moral revolution in that nation.

Of the latter there has never been the slightest indication, nor is there likely to be so long as the Junkers can feed the vanity of the people with spectacular successes in the field.

The systematic training of half-a-century is not forgotten in three or four years, and the ambition of Germany remains to-day precisely the same as when it plunged Europe into war.

That is conclusively proved by the policy of spoliation adopted towards Russia and Roumania. Peace, as we understand it, guaranteeing the freedom of the world is diametrically opposed to the ideals which Germany has set before herself, and if at times she has coqueted with the idea it has merely been because for the moment the military or domestic situation made that course seem politic.

The most that Germany ever wanted was an interval for rest and recuperation so that she might renew the conflict as soon as the circumstances seemed propitious. For that she would probably have been willing to return to the status quo ante bellum, but she has never shown any disposition to redress old wrongs or atone for her many violations of International law. Much of the

peace talk in which she has indulged has been designed to throw dust in the eyes of the world and to "draw" her opponents. Her statesmen have always been careful to deal in vague generalities and to avoid any practical application of the pious principles which they have enunciated. Their object has been to leave themselves perfectly free to reap the advantage of any success that might come their way, and at the same time to tie the Allies down to definite aims, which, while they must satisfy the legitimate aspirations of each of the nations concerned, must avoid the appearance of being unduly oppressive for fear of strengthening the position of the militarists in Germany. It was a clever scheme, for, if it did not divide the Allies, it obliged them at least to place all their cards on the table. The disclosures that have taken place in regard to Austria's peace overtures show the craftiness of the Central Powers. It seems now that the confidential letter to France and England in which the Emperor KARL declared that he could induce Germany to make peace, vacillate all occupied territories, and restore to Belgium full sovereignty provided the territorial demands of the Allies were restricted to Alsace-Lorraine, was really intended to serve as an apple of discord, for it involved the abandonment of Italy's claims. Fortunately the offer was rejected, but the enemy may be trusted to make the fullest use of the admission of M. RIBOT that this was only done "after considerable hesitation" on the part of Mr. Lloyd George. The Emperor KARL's indignant denial to the KAISER that he ever made such representations may be merely camouflage, for his ability to dictate the course to be followed by the predominant partner in the Central European Alliance may well be doubted; it is far more likely that he acted according to instructions. Even if this assumption be incorrect, the result of the intrigue has been advantageous to Germany, for the Dual Monarchy is now under the necessity of giving very convincing proofs of its loyalty to its powerful neighbour. Already it has been tied more firmly than ever to Germany's war chariot by the agreement just concluded between the two Emperors.

Amongst those who left the Colony on Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Griffin and Mr. and Mrs. E. V. D. Parr.

The annual meeting of the "Star" Ferry Co., Ltd., is advertised to take place on the 30th inst.

To-day being Whit Monday, the Fire and Marine Insurance offices will not be open for the transaction of public business.

The Commodore has appointed Lieut. Henry Poraz Mudie, R.N.R., to be Officer in charge of the Examination Service, vice Lieut. Frederick Medway, R.N., with effect from the 13th May, 1918.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified in the Colony on Friday:—Cerebro-spinal fever, 7 (5 deaths); bubonic plague, 2; diphtheria, 1 (1 death); and enteric fever, 1 (1 death). All the sufferers were Chinese.

Messrs. J. O. Fletcher, J. Ralston, and Bomb. Hancock, three masters of Queen's College who have volunteered for active service, were given a hearty Chinese send-off on Friday by the pupils of that institution. Each was presented with a souvenir.

We are informed that the Secretary of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, Portsmouth, has acknowledged with thanks the sum of £20, this being the proceeds of a piano-recital given by Mr. Denman Fuller, assisted by Mrs. John Robertson, and of a collection taken at an Organ Recital also given by Mr. Fuller in Canton last January.

It is notified in the Gazette that, on the application of the China Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., and of George Morrison Shaw, sugar refiner, and Hector McEwan McTavish, of Victoria, H.E. the Governor in Council has been pleased to direct that the said Company and George Morrison Shaw and Hector McEwan McTavish may use and publish in the Colony for a period of nine months from the 30th day of April, 1918, an invention for the manufacture, treatment and preparation of carbon for use in colourizing sugar solutions and in the clarification of sugar syrups without prejudice to the Letters Patent to be granted for the said invention.

It is reported that two regiments of Fukien troops have recently surrendered to the Canton forces. Commander Chan Kwing-ming has recruited over 10 regiments of natives in Chin-chow, who know the entrance to Fukien, to act as advanced guards.

It is reported that, owing to their defeat, Lung's troops in Luchow will evacuate Luchow and return to Hailow.

Another message states that Lung's troops in Tsui-man, near Luchow, are busy preparing defensive measures in order to gain time to prepare for another advance.

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS

REGULAR MILITARY DUTIES FOR ARTILLERY COMPANY.

It is notified in the Gazette that the Artillery Company of the Hongkong Defence Corps will be required to perform regular military duties, with effect from the 17th May until further notice.

TIGERS IN NEW TERRITORY MENACE TO CATTLE-OWNERS.

Sergt. Ogg, of the Antau Police Station, New Territory, reports the supposed existence of several tigers in the Antau district, of the Pat Heung Valley. In several villages heads of cattle are missing and carcasses have been discovered on the hillsides.

ARMED ROBBERY IN CAINE ROAD.

BIG HAUT OF MONEY AND JEWELLERY.

An armed robbery took place on Friday in Caine Road. The occupant of the house has reported to the Police that six men—four armed with revolvers and pistols, and two with axes and knives—entered his bedroom and, after gagging him, and four members on his family, stole money and jewellery to the value of \$3,087.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

ENEMY TRADING ACT.

PEKING, May 19th.—An enemy Trading Act has been promulgated. It consists of eight clauses.

SINO-JAPANESE NAVAL CONVENTION.

A Sino-Japanese Naval Convention has been signed.

SEMENOFF ESTABLISHES AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

General Semenov has established an autonomous Government at Transbaikalia.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PENDING CHINO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT.

LONDON, May 16th.—The Times Correspondent at Tokio reports that the pending Chino-Japanese Agreement has provoked excitement among the Chinese students here. The Japanese authorities have persuaded the students not to return to China. The principals of ten Chinese schools, waited upon the Education and Foreign Ministers, when Baron Goto issued a memorandum stating that the military entente is now being discussed between Japan and China is chiefly aimed at the maintenance of peace in the Far East and the integrity of China against the advancing German menace, particularly in Siberia. "The so-called entente cannot include other conditions beyond the above, which we are unable to disclose in view of the future military operation, against the enemy."

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG WAO" SAN PO.]

CANTON, May 19th.

CHANGSHA RE-OCCUPIED.—Commander Tan Ho-ming reports that his troops re-occupied Changsha on the 14th inst. The Northern troops suffered nearly a thousand casualties, and considerable booty was captured.

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT.—The second reading of the resolution reconstituting the Military Government was passed by the Special Parliament yesterday.

The Ministry of Interior was closed, and every communication suspended. Strict watch is maintained in the Public Park in Whampoa, which is supposed to be Dr. Sun's headquarters.

THE CHINA BANK.—Since the business of the China Bank in Canton has been suspended the money market has been greatly affected. The banknotes are at a great discount. The authorities are proposing to establish exchange bureaux in order to avoid a continuance of the present troubles with the money-changers. Chang-Hai-yu, Minister of War to the Military Government, who has been interned by the Tsuchun, has offered \$600,000 cash, to assist this scheme. A very large sum will be raised by the Commercial Chamber, and the restoration of the money-market is expected.

SWANOW REPORTS.—It is reported that two regiments of Fukien troops have recently surrendered to the Canton forces. Commander Chan Kwing-ming has recruited over 10 regiments of natives in Chin-chow, who know the entrance to Fukien, to act as advanced guards.

LUNG'S TROOPS.—It is reported that, owing to their defeat, Lung's troops in Luchow will evacuate Luchow and return to Hailow.

Another message states that Lung's troops in Tsui-man, near Luchow, are busy preparing defensive measures in order to gain time to prepare for another advance.

THE WAR.

THE ALLIES AND THE IMMINENT GERMAN OFFENSIVE: OUR RESERVES STRONG AND READY.

AUSTRIA'S PEACE PROPOSALS:

MR. BALFOUR'S EXPLANATION.

ABNORMAL INFANTILE MORTALITY IN GERMANY.

Franco-Belgian front.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FRENCH FRONT.

ENEMY LINES PENETRATED.

PARIS, May 17th.

A communiqué states:—There was a violent bombardment at night-time in the region of Hailles.

We repulsed an enemy raid in the direction of Mesnil-St. George's and took prisoners.

Our detachments penetrated the enemy lines at two points south of Canny-sur-Matz and brought back 40 prisoners.

Italian front.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FRANCO-ITALIAN ATTACK.

LONDON, May 17th.

A wireless Austrian official report states:—The French and Italian forces attacked our mountain positions between the Osini and Devols rivers in Albania, and gained territory westward of Korca.

General.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MORTALITY STATISTICS IN GERMANY.

ABNORMAL INCREASE AMONG INFANTS.

LONDON, May 17th.

A report compiled by the Local Government Board on information from German sources shows that the fall in the birth-rate in Germany for the three years 1915-17 was equivalent to a loss of 2,000,000 babies. Forty per cent fewer babies were born in 1916 than in 1913, compared with a decrease of ten per cent in England and Wales. The infantile death-rate in Germany had been well kept down, but it is 50 per cent higher than in England and Wales. The high death-rate led to a large extension of infant welfare work, in which voluntary societies played an active part, but the movement is becoming more and more municipal. The infant mortality rate in Germany in 1913 was 151 per 1,000, compared with 108 in England and Wales. The rates in 1914 for Prussia, Saxony and Bavaria were, respectively, 164, 173, and 193 per 1,000. An abnormal increase in infant mortality during the first months of the war is shown by the fact that in Prussia in the third quarter of 1914 the rate rose from 128 to 143, in Saxony from 140 to 242, and in Bavaria from 170 to 230. The records in England and Wales do not show any abnormal mortality among infants in the early months of the war.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LONDON, May 17th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Albert Stanley paid a tribute to the sacrifices Lancashire cotton employers and operatives have entailed through the substantial reduction in the importation of cotton. The most careful measures had necessitated the unemployment of 47,000 operatives, but steps were taken to avert distress by a fund whereby over £1,000,000 was raised. The necessity for Government control of the whole of Egyptian cotton was emphasised by the great uncertainty regarding the price, which was bound to arise owing to a fall in the crop and the reduction of available shipping transport. The Government was anxious to secure a fair price to the grower and a reasonable price to the Allies and spinner.

Sir Albert Stanley foreshadowed a continuance of this control during the critical period of reconstruction after the war.

(Continued on page 7.)

OUR LONDON LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE GERMAN BID FOR VICTORY IN THE WEST.

LONDON, April 1st.

It is impossible to write in this letter any full or exact account of the tremendous battles in France; and yet what else is there that matters? The position across the Channel changes from day to day, almost from hour to hour. At the moment everything is in a state of flux. The war is like the ebb and flow of the sea. No man can say what will happen to-morrow or next week; for at this time in which I write history is in the making. The battles which are going on in the region of the Somme are destined to shape the whole course of human existence on this planet; but it is hard for us to realise that truth, or to believe that the struggle around Peronne, Albert, Mont Didier, Bapaume and other places between the Oise and the Scarpe will be talked about and written about so long as the world endures.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.

One thing which presents itself with arresting force at this stern time and commands admiration is the splendid spirit of the nation. It has been simply magnificent to observe the calm and resolute bearing of people of all classes day by day while the Germans have been pushing the British Armies before them by their weight of numbers. Since March 31st we have had to go back something like 37 miles, our troops disputing every foot of the ground with dogged stubbornness, just as the immortal "Old Contemptibles" did in August, 1914, from Mons to the Marne. You have read, of course, how the enemy has flung scores of divisions into the battle, regardless of losses, and sacrificed men as faggots are fed into a furnace, his aim being to drive a wedge between the French and British forces, thereby opening up a way to Paris in the south-west and northwards to the Channel ports. So far all his efforts are vain. The Allied line holds. The losses of ground is a secondary matter so long as the Allied Armies remain intact.

It will be a miracle indeed if the enemy succeeds in breaking through now, though everyone expects that he will keep on trying for weeks, or it may be for months, in the same way that he did before Verdun. But even if the French were forced back to the Loire, and the British had to dig themselves in with their backs to the Channel it would not settle this business; for Britain still holds command of the sea. Recognising that, the British nation is standing fast. There is a determination stronger than ever before to wage the war till the Hun is beaten and his military power—the cause of all the awful tragedy—is broken for ever. I am anxious to put this concrete fact upon record—that, in spite of what has happened during the last fortnight and of anything that may happen in the immediate future, there has never been a moment when the determination of this country was more solid or more united to fight on and win. We have a stern order to face; before this letter can reach you many things can and will happen that must try us to the core as a nation; but we in England mean to "make good" so far as the German is concerned, and we will fight to the last man and the last shilling. That is the true interpretation of national feeling, and national sentiment to-day. I find everywhere opinion is unanimous about that, and there is no call that the Government can make that will not be responded to without question or demur.

THE CALL FOR MORE MEN.

By all accounts the heavy German attack and consequent withdrawal of the Allied forces has given a tremendous impetus to recruiting in the United States among British-born subjects. The same holds good of Canada; and it will be surprising if other parts of the Empire do not also respond with men, and more men. Mr. Lloyd George's message to the Dominions asking for recruits simply states what is well-known in military circles—that we shall have to have an immensely augmented Army before we can hope to settle the job in hand. The defection of Russia has given the Germans a very great superiority in fighting units, and it will be some time before the United States can take a big part in

(Continued at foot of next column.)

BRITISH AND GERMAN GUN-POWER.

There has been a good deal of pessimistic gossip lately about two points in the military comparison between the Western Allies and the Central Powers (says a London writer on February 8th). It has been said, and written, that we are not even maintaining the actual strength of the British army in France and Flanders. I have it on the highest authority that our army has been steadily strengthened, and that it is stronger to-day than it was last year. All that is really meant by the talk of its "not being maintained" is that the composition of the army is changing. The war is becoming more and more a machine war, and along with that change goes a steady decline of casualties.

The other point of the pessimists is that the German capture of guns from Russia and Italy have given them a superiority of gunfire. Acknowledging the captures, I believe that not much importance is attached to the guns collected in this way by the Germans. A collection of guns does not mean gun-power. To put it at the highest, the Germans have got a number of guns of various calibre different from their own, for which they will have to provide a great quantity of ammunition.

The fewer the types of guns the larger is the common reserve of ammunition, and the guns can be kept going a longer time. With a great variety of calibre there must be so many separate, and therefore smaller, reserves of ammunition. Consequently, even if the Germans have, as the pessimists say, a larger number of guns because of their captures, the excess will not help them to any serious extent. They might outgun us in a few hours' battle, or even perhaps in a day's battle, but they would be outgunned in a week's battle.

Europe. Hence the urgency of the manpower problem. The age-limit is being raised here to bring in men physically fit up to 48 or 50. No doubt the extreme Radicals and Pacifists will make an outcry as to this when Parliament meets, in a fortnight, but they will find themselves like the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

THE NEW GENERALISSIMO.

A certain amount of criticism has been directed against the appointment of General Foch to the command of the Allied Armies in France. The official announcement that this has met with the cordial approval of the various Governments concerned, and also of the Commanders-in-Chief of the French, British, and American Armies, ought to prevent the possibility of misconception as to what it really means. General Foch will simply co-ordinate the strategy necessary for the conduct of operations. It by no means implies that Sir Douglas Haig, for instance, takes a secondary place. But with the Germans driving their full weight against both the French and British it is obviously necessary to have absolutely perfect co-operation without the smallest chance of delay arising. It is like having a number of partners in a business, and an arrangement by which, in the event of a difference or difficulty arising, there is one who, by common consent, has the right to give promptly the final decision. Any attempt to stir up trouble on a point of precedence or national susceptibilities in the present grave crisis of the war is unpatriotic and disloyal. General Foch is, of course, the man who helped to smother the German thrust against Paris at the commencement of the war, and he has since then added to his great reputation as a soldier.

PRINCE LICHOWSKY.

If it were not for the fact that the greatest of all battles is in progress attention would be riveted upon the disclosures of Prince Lichowsky, the late German Ambassador in London. The account of the incidents which happened immediately before August, 1914, which he wrote for private purposes (but which has become public property) completely disposes of the German contention that the war is one of aggression in which the country played the part of villain of the piece. The remarkable thing is that not only did the German Government betray the cause of peace in Europe, but they betrayed their own Ambassador in London. The Prince, a well-meaning man, was merely the cat's-paw of the military clique in his own country who sent him here in order to throw dust in the eyes of the British Government. He was quite honest in attempting with Sir Edward Grey to prevent war, but Berlin meant war, and they sold him without shame or remorse. A well-known literary man said the other day that there is nothing in all history to compare with this for baseness; and I think that few will disagree with his statement.—H.B.

"I AM CONFIDENT WE SHALL WIN."

ALL MUST UNITE TO THE SUPPORT OF THE ARMY.

[BY ADMIRAL LORD BEREAFORD.]

We have arrived at a crisis in the war which might become the crisis of our fate. There is not the slightest reason for pessimism or wavering.

So far as information goes our great reserves have not come into action yet. The Germans may find, as they have before in this war, a force on their flanks which might compel their retreat and add heavily to the carnage they have already suffered through the heroism and undying pluck of the Allies in France.

It should also be remembered that we are falling back on the base of our supplies, and that the German armies are advancing from their base of supplies and over a region which they had devastated with all the characteristic brutality of their race.

I advise my countrymen to keep a hard-fisted, determined, but cheery face in present circumstances. Many battles that have begun by forced retreat have ended in discomfiture to the enemy and ultimate victory. There is no reason in the world why the present battle should not add to the list.

GRIT AND PLUCK.

The British race always shows its best characteristics when it is up against a proposition filled with dangers and difficulties. We have been in a worse position many times before in our history, and we have been in a worse position since this war began, but the indomitable grit, pluck, and tenacity of our race have pulled us through as they will pull us through again.

The stronger the Government, the stronger the support they will get from the people, but to get that support the Government must abandon their policy of secrecy, which has led to so many misunderstandings during the war, which has confused the people, and which, to a great extent, has prevented them from realising in what a serious position this war has placed us.

The spirit of our people is the greatest asset of our race, and that spirit should be encouraged by telling them the truth. German successes are published nearly every hour. Our temporary reverses should be published as well in detail. In that way we should wake up that national spirit which should be utilised now.

There is no sign of any wavering in the grim determination of the public. Stocks are not running down; pacifists for the moment are silent; recruiting is going on admirably since the first news of the reverses, and more, particularly in that section of the public that for the moment was holding aloof.

The shipbuilding question is an illustration of wrong-headedness in regard to secrecy. If the Government had made public the reason why the output of shipbuilding was reduced by about 40 per cent in January and February, the all-powerful force of public opinion would have removed the cause.

"CANONIC BEATEN."

We can never be beaten in this war. If the worse came to the worst the British could get back to the sea, and with the powerful Republic of the West coming to the assistance of the Allies and the cause of liberty, justice, and civilisation we could hold the seas. But there will be no necessity for such drastic action. Before undertaking it we are prepared to do our utmost to service every man and every shilling in the cause of our allies and for our very existence as an empire. Nothing in the war has been more soul-stirring than the prompt support of the French reserves to us on the western front when we were hard pressed.

This is no time for recriminations, but it is time for every man and woman in the country to do all that in them lies to support the Government in their efforts to increase the men and munitions and fill up the gaps that have been caused in this great attack.

Man cannot die a nobler death than in the service of the State. While we regard those who have been lost with that respect and affection which we cannot express in words, we tender our heartfelt sympathy to those relatives who have lost all they loved best on earth.

The time for words has passed. Deeds are all that count now. Let the country rally to the support of the governing authorities with the same fortitude, self-sacrifice, and good comradeship that have been shown throughout the war by the officers and men of the Fleet, the air, the Army and our Allies.

We have a hard time to go through yet, but I am confident that we shall win.

"WORTH DYING FOR"

A correspondent sends to the Daily Telegraph this moving little story which was given to him by a lady who is doing very important war work in London: "Rather a beautiful thing was said to me a few days ago by a wounded Tommy. I was looking at a bit of Kensington Palace 'wild garden'—thousands of daffodils and violet crocuses in flower under some trees just breaking into leaf, terribly beautiful as it all appeared to me at the moment! I suddenly realised that the soldier boy was standing by me looking, also. I said, 'That's worth living for, isn't it?' And he replied quite simply, 'Yes, miss, or dying for!' This to me is worth a hundred sonnets and poems, however lovely."

TRUTH FROM ESSEN.

AUSTRIA ABETTED BY KAISER
IN 1914.

During the Reichstag Committee debate on March 16th concerning the Lichowsky memorandum, the Vice-Chancellor, Herr von Payer, referred also to a memorandum circulated by a certain Dr. Mühlen, who at the time of the outbreak of war was one of the directors of Krupp's Works at Essen, and who is now living in Switzerland. Herr Mühlen's memorandum has now been published by the *Berliner Tageblatt*, and it is little wonder (says *The Times*) that the German Government is at pains to represent the author as a victim of neurosthenia, and that the persons to whom he refers have given a mere denial of his statements. Herr Mühlen's astonishing memorandum, which is apparently undated, runs as follows:—

In the middle of July, 1914, I had, as I frequently had, a conversation with Dr. Helfferich, then director of the Deutsche Bank in Berlin and now Vice-Chancellor. The Deutsche Bank had adopted a negative attitude towards certain large transactions, in Bulgaria and Turkey, in which the firm of Krupp, for business reasons—delivery of war material—had a lively interest. As one of the reasons to justify the attitude of the Deutsche Bank, Dr. Helfferich finally gave me the following reason:—

"The political situation has become very menacing. The Deutsche Bank must in any case wait before entering into any further engagements abroad. The Austrians have just been with the Kaiser. In a week's time Vienna will send a very severe ultimatum to Serbia, with a very short interval for the answer. The ultimatum will contain demands such as punishment of a number of officers, dissolution of political associations, criminal investigations in Serbia by Austrian officials, and, in fact, a whole series of definite satisfactions will be demanded at once; otherwise Austria-Hungary will declare war on Serbia."

Dr. Helfferich added that the Kaiser had expressed his decided approval of this procedure on the part of Austria-Hungary. He had said that he regarded a conflict between Serbia as an internal affair, between two countries, in which he would permit no other State to interfere. If Russia mobilized, he would mobilize also. But in his case mobilization meant immediate war. This time there would be no oscillation. Helfferich said that the Austrians were extremely well satisfied at this determined attitude on the part of the Kaiser.

When I thereupon said to Dr. Helfferich that this unbecoming communication converted my fears of a world-war, which were already strong, into absolute certainty, he replied that it certainly looked like that. But perhaps France and Russia would reconsider the matter. In any case that Serbia deserved a lesson which they would remember. This was the first intimation that I had received about the Kaiser's discussions with our Allies. I knew Dr. Helfferich's particularly intimate relations with the personages who were sure to be initiated, and I knew that his communication was trustworthy.

After my return from Berlin I informed Herr Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach, one of whose directors I then was at Essen. Dr. Helfferich had given me permission, and at that time the intention was to make him a director of Krupp's. Herr von Bohlen seemed disturbed that Dr. Helfferich was in possession of such information, and he made a remark to the effect that the Government people can never keep their mouths shut. He then told me the following. He said that he had himself been with the Kaiser in the last few days. The Kaiser had spoken to him also of his conversation with the Austrians, and of its result; but he had described the matter as so secret that he (Krupp) would not even have dared to inform his own directors. As, however, I already knew, he could tell me that Helfferich's statements were accurate. Indeed, Helfferich seemed to know more details than he did. He said that the situation was really very serious. The Kaiser had told him that he would declare war immediately if Russia mobilized, and that this time people would see that he did not turn about. The Kaiser's repeated insistence that this time nobody would be able to accuse him of indecision had, he said, been almost come in its effect.

On the very day indicated to me by Dr. Helfferich the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia appeared. At this time I was again in Berlin, and I told Helfferich that I regarded the tone and contents of the ultimatum as simply monstrous. Dr. Helfferich, however, said that the note only had that ring in the German translation. He had seen the ultimatum in French, and in French it really could not be regarded as overdone. On this occasion Helfferich also said to me that the Kaiser had gone on his Northern cruise only as a "blind"; he had not arranged the cruise on the usual extensive scale, but was remaining close at hand and keeping in constant touch. Now one must simply wait and see what would happen. The Austrians, who, of course, did not expect the ultimatum to be accepted, were really acting rapidly before the other Powers could find time to interfere. The Deutsche Bank had already made its arrangements, so as to be prepared for all eventualities. For example, it was no longer paying out the gold which came in. That could easily be done without attracting notice, and the amount day by day reached considerable sums.

Immediately after the Vienna ultimatum to Serbia the German Government issued declarations to the effect that Austria-Hungary had acted all alone, without Germany's previous knowledge. When one attempted to reconcile these declarations with the events mentioned above, the only possible explanation was that the Kaiser had tied himself down without inviting the co-operation of his Government, and that, in the conversations with the Austrians, the Germans

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

BIRMINGHAM INNOVATION.

[BY PROFESSOR SIR W. ASHLEY.]

A decision has recently been arrived at by the University of Birmingham which may prove of considerable importance. It is to establish a new B.A. degree for students who desire to make a special study of social and political science. Such students, having passed the intermediate examination, will be allowed to select their second and third year courses for the degree of B.A. so as to include as principal subjects (studied for two years) moral, social, and political philosophy and economics. As subsidiary subjects (studied for one year) they must offer British institutions, and have of the following: General European history, methods of statistics and industrial law (as one subject), English literature, French, German, and the history of education.

The Senate and Council of the University have been moved to take this step by a conviction of the growing need for instruction in political organisation and in the forces at work in modern industrial society. The requirements for the degree have been planned so as to make it suitable for those who wish simply to fit themselves for the duties of political life, and for an active share in local administration. It is hoped, also, that the degree will be attractive to many of those who look forward to careers as teachers, as a means of fitting themselves to give that instruction in the duties of citizenship which is sure to be called for in our school when continuing education has become compulsory. Moreover, the degree will be very suitable for those who wish to prepare themselves for "social work" of a professional character. Nothing could be more appropriate for those who hope to become factory inspectors, municipal officials, welfare supervisors, Employment Exchange officers, and the like, than the B.A. in social and political science, followed by a year of practical training already organised by the university in connection with its social study diploma.

A word or two may not be out of place as to the several courses. The study of social philosophy in the university has been built up by Professor J. H. Muirhead during recent years to satisfy the needs of candidates for the social study diploma. The course in this subject will be expanded to include a larger attention to the history of political theory from Plato down to our own day. The economics required will include industrial history, elementary political economy, and the descriptive course on the chief industries of Great Britain and of the British Dominions, which has been a characteristic feature of the Faculty of Commerce. The course in Statistics will include a survey of English Constitutional history, and a study of existing political institutions, central and local. The wide range of choice among subsidiary subjects will explain itself, but it may be added that the courses in methods of statistics, given hitherto only in the Faculty of Commerce, has proved of real use to students subsequently engaged in administrative employment, and that Professor Tillyard brings to the teaching of industrial law the wide experience derived from his work on Trade Boards and Munition Tribunals. There is this further to be said by way of comment. The new degree is the outcome of an alliance between the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts, the Department of History in the same faculty, and the Faculty of Commerce. It involves a special grouping of courses, but the specialisation is not a narrow one. The essential unity of the programme consists in its bearing throughout on the interaction of the individual and society, and while it will leave room for the acquisition of the technical knowledge requisite for particular professions, its general spirit will be liberal and humane.

took care not to agree upon the text of the ultimatum. For I have already shown that the contents of the ultimatum were pretty accurately known in Germany. Herr Krupp von Bohlen, with whom I spoke about these German declarations—which, at any rate in their effect, were lies—was also by no means edified. For, as he said, he might ought not, in such a tremendous affair, to have given a blank cheque to a State like Austria; and it was the duty of the leading statesmen to demand, both of the Kaiser and of our Allies, that the Austrian claims and the ultimatum to Serbia should be discussed in minute detail and definitely decided upon, and also that we should decide upon the precise programme of our further proceedings. He said that, whatever point of view one took, we ought not to give ourselves to eventualities which had not been reckoned out in advance. One ought to have connected appropriate conditions with our obligations. In short, Herr von Bohlen regarded the German denial of previous knowledge, if there was any trace of truth in it, as an offence against the elementary principles of diplomacy; and he told me that he intended to speak in this sense to Herr von Jagow, then Foreign Secretary who was a special friend of his.

As a result of this conversation, Herr von Bohlen told me that Herr von Jagow stuck firmly to his assertion that he had had nothing to do with the text of the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum, and that Germany had never made any such demands. In reply to the objection that this was inconceivable, Herr von Jagow replied that he, as a diplomatist, had naturally thought of making such a demand. When, however, Herr von Jagow was occupying himself with the matter, he was called in, the Kaiser had committed himself, that it was too late for any procedure according to diplomatic custom, and there was nothing more to be done. The situation was such that it would have been impossible to intervene with drafting proposals. In the end, he (Jagow) had thought that non-interference would have its advantages—namely, the good impression which could be made in Petersburg and Paris with the German declaration that Germany had not co-operated in the preparation of the Vienna ultimatum.

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CONVOY WORK. A NAVY "SIDE-LINE."

[BY MALCOLM MACASKILL.]

WITH THE BRITISH FLEET, March.

All the facts in this article are known to the Germans. To the German naval and military authorities, that is; bringing no "comfort to the enemy," it may safely be assumed the German people know nothing of them. Up to this moment, through the tradition of the "Silent Navy," the people of the Allies have been equally in the dark about most of them; "which," as Euclid briefly and bluntly says, "is absurd." For the stating of these facts is a very vital answer to the stock question, "What is the Navy doing?" one of the most vital answers of all.

From one point of view, convoys are a Navy side-line. They demand few ships, comparatively, and the "fringes of the Fleet" supply the craft they need. But so much depends upon the success of this "side-line." So the Navy has bestowed upon it an infinitude of pains, and—fortunately for the Allies—a very thriving side-line it is. To begin with, those for whom, in the first instance, these pains were taken—the merchant ships—were a little less than grateful. They chafed at the Service bonds in the night the fast ship arose and went, leaving her slower sisters to it. If she made port safely she murmured something about "losing the convoy," and it might chance, got another carrier, this convoy home, with resulting profit, in the convoy, if necessary, who "log" in the same way. But last ships that more safely through grew more and more the exception, for the bonds of the convoys had been imposed out of an experience swiftly ripened. Mostly the ship that lost a convoy found a U-boat, and paid, in the fourth year of war, for her freedom a prohibitive price. So to-day the fast boat is patient. The pace the modern sets she keeps. Noisier in the pure-milk of individualism and filled with an entire belief that there was danger in numbers, the whole duty of convoys, which is to keep station and not to straggle, was for the merchant skipper a hard saying. But it is becoming, where it has not already become, a tenet of his war faith. These are not the airy deliverances of a generalising journalist. I could cite in support of them a commanding officer who has them escorted or helped to escort a million, and a half-ton of straggling—and a Port Convoy Officer who has marshalled a greater volume of traffic still, with the same practical immunity from sinking.

You can express convoy work in a sentence. The escort takes a convoy out, and, having picked another up, brings it in. But this is to state the problem merely. The full solution would demand many pages, and one can only sketch briefly its general working out. The good ship *Outis* is going out and wants to join a convoy. Her first step is to discover her appropriate convoy base. Then, arrayed in the motley which is these days at sea, she finds her way "proceeds" to that base. She finds herself in the middle of a kind of ships' harlequinade. As her fellow grotesques require, she gives to the Port Convoy Officer such details about herself as he finds it useful to know. He revolves these in relation to the information the variety artists around her have given him about themselves; on these details he works out a convoy formation. Then on a day he bids the captains of all the ships to a council ashore. Brief little motor-launches gather them from the ships' sides, and they muster at an appointed hour in an appointed room.

SKIPPER'S AT SCHOOL.
I watched them file in—a race of simple men in deadly earnest. A tall lieutenant-commander at a table handed each a packet. "Book of the word," he said, in the Navy's jesting way. The said, in the Navy's jesting way, the masters received this first grilling, and crossing the room, another table with sheet spread up, then they took their seats on the wooden benches.

It was for all the world like a school, and the skipper turned to the board showed the ships of the convoy in relief in position—and the captains marked their place. There was a rustle of anticipation; then the "professor" stepped in. This was the Port Convoy Officer, with four stripes round his cuff, an Irish accent, twinkling eyes, and a twinkling black beard. He began upon his theme, which was daily variations, the dark ways of U-boats. In a language they understood he gave the skippers the results of a good deal of research gathered at peril of life and limb. He laid down and enlarged upon the two golden rules for convoys which have been stated about "Keep station" and "Don't straggle." Now and again one of the skippers interrupted, but for the most part they listened intently. After the Port Convoy Officer would direct its navigation, took a hand. He suddenly alarmed a "knot captain about the speed he might look for from his ships in given circumstances. "I can't do more than seven knots," cried this skipper. "I can't really." "You can do your best to keep." "No more than seven knots," insisted the skipper, shaking a doleful but determined head. It was a vigorous bearing, for the fast boats, and they discovered later, as they depressed silence indicated, they suspected, that the cry of seven knots had touched the commodore's heart.

The lesson ended, the skippers departed, gravely as they had come, and next morning the convoy put to sea. The escort slipped outside and waited. Then came the news, "Convoy coming out."

"WITH A HUIZZA TO SEA."
It thrilled like the beginning of a great adventure. There was a breathless dash about it. Out came the ships.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

MR. DILLON'S TASK. WARNING TO SINN FEIN.

Mr. John Dillon addressed his first public meeting as chairman of the Irish Nationalist Party at Enniskillen recently and was accorded a hearty reception.

Mr. Dillon said that he took the welcome given to him as an assurance that he could count on their sympathy and support in the heavy task which he had taken on his shoulders. He had come to Enniskillen not as a champion of civil war or of disorder, but as a champion of the party whose ideal was to obliterate for ever the religious dissension and party conflict which had been the curse of the Irish nation for so long. It would be his endeavour to increase the strength of the United Irish League as the national organization.

All the world was longing for peace. A great statesman—President Wilson—had declared that the road to peace must be by and through a League of Nations. Sir Edward Carson had spoken with scorn and contempt of the League of Nations as a possible solution of this war. He did not wonder at that, because Sir Edward Carson had always been an apostle of discord, and he was now carrying out principle into the European war. President Wilson, as one of the leaders of mankind, had stated that no League of Nations could be permanent so long as injustice existed in the world. To get rid of injustice all the oppressed nationalities of Europe must be set free; and unless that were done there could be no League of Nations. His own task would be to tell England before the world that her statesmen must cease to talk of a League of Nations, or to pretend that this war was in defence of small nationalities, until she put her own house in order and set free a country that had for 700 years groaned under her government. That was the message which he would convey on behalf of the Nationalists of the world to the Government of England. He was not without hope that Sir Edward Carson, after having surveyed the result of his work in 1914, would shrink from keeping up friction and differences in Ireland. He (Mr. Dillon) was too old to fear failure, and when his party invited him to give his leadership he could not decline.

THE CONVENTION AND ULSTER.

If the Irish Convention failed to agree to a settlement, the Irish question would assume within a week or two a more formidable shape than ever. He was of opinion that Ireland was on the eve of one of the most momentous struggles in all her tragic history. Ireland was in a terrible condition. She was invited by a clamorous and numerous body of young Irishmen to abandon her claim for Home Rule and to set up a claim for an Irish Republic. He did not think that the people who advocated that view were quite so numerous as they imagined, but it must be recognized that they spoke for a large section of the younger people. It was futile to discuss a possible Irish Republic, and as the Sinn Féin leaders were not united, nor consistent as to their aims, which were asserted one day and denied another, he asked why the Sinn Féiners should not leave aside their dangerous bluff and coalesce with their fellow-countrymen, and make a united demand for that which was almost within their grasp.

Mr. Dillon warned the young, unthinking enthusiasts against being led into another rising. He also warned them that they were the unconscious tools of a deep conspiracy to reduce them along a futile path, in order to rob them of the prize that was really within their grasp. The ranks of the Sinn Féin movement, he knew, were full of police spies, and he urged the people to set their faces against madness, and to maintain the organization that had already done so much for Ireland.

choking through the neck of the bottle. The Port Convoy Officer (not too busy to make us who were to tell the story a courteous signal) marshalled the lines as with a wave of his hand. The escort took up position; above an airship hovered. Then, trawlers, drifters, airship, escort, and convoy, we went with a huzza to sea. Clear of the land, the airship and some of the escort left us. One, two, three days and nights the others went on with the convoy stretched over between them like a picture in a frame, a picture of peace, since it represented six figures of Allied tonnage. Except for meals, and not always then, the escort commanding officers never left the bridge the six days they were at sea; when they slept it was in the charthouse. Only those, indeed, who have seen them can appreciate the anxieties of convoy work and the unselfish devotion of those who do it. Unless by order of the commodore, no light burns among all the ships, and we ran into fog. But the pride of the escort in its convoy increased daily with each night and morning as all the ships were revealed together—no absentees, and station kept through fog and dark. Finally there came to the escort the moment when the ships were out of danger, and could go on alone; it left them safely streaked along the skyline. "That's that!" said the escort.

Then in the fog the escort turned about the ocean to look for the convoy coming home. It might easily have been a day or more in the search, but as it chanced a trawler had strayed, and lo! it wire-lessly suddenly that it had found the convoy. A patrol's full-throated siren brought a faint answering sound, and escort and convoy felt their way towards each other. Then, as they had taken up position to shelter the other, the ships of the escort folded their covering wings about this, and as they had watched over the outgoing convoy by day and night, so that the U-boat could not smite it, so they kept over this an unceasing vigil, till at length four grey destroyers came to it on the wings of the morning, and its double work was done. Then it headed for the base it had left, passing swiftly by sunlit shores upon which the waves dashed high and white, the shores of the land inviolate. And for that they help to keep it so the S.N.O. sent them a key again next morning.—Daily Telegraph.

HONGKONG WAR BONDS DRAWING



PRIZES.

The sale of tickets has proceeded so satisfactorily that the Committee is now able to indicate a provisional allocation of the 3 big prizes and the 100 smaller prizes.

The prizes given below are, as already advised, subject to the amount available for distribution being the sum of \$500,000.

In this event:—				Approximately.
WAR CHARITIES WILL RECEIVE				\$125,000
1st prize				187,500
2nd prize				50,200
3rd prize				37,500
2 prizes of \$10,000 each	(approx.)			20,000
2 prizes of \$7,500 each				15,000
2 prizes of \$5,000 each				10,000
2 prizes of \$2,500 each				5,000
7 prizes of \$1,000 each				7,000
6 prizes of \$500 each				3,000
10 prizes of \$200 each				2,000
15 prizes of \$100 each				1,500
24 prizes of \$50 each				1,200
15 prizes of \$100 each				1,500
103 prizes				\$500,000

The closing date for sale of tickets is 12th June and the number of tickets now available for sale is rapidly becoming less, therefore if you have not bought all the tickets you require it is advisable to hurry up and tell your friends to do likewise.

TICKETS \$5.00 each.
ON SALE AT ALL STORES, CLUBS, HOTELS, BANKS, Etc.

"WAYLOO" SHEETS and SHEETINGS

Best Value Largest Assortment.

COTTON SHEETS.
Made of strong Wigan Sheeting, pure bleach, imported direct from the manufacturers.

Comfortable in use, and laundry proof.
HEM-STITCHED Size 70" x 108" for single beds
PLAIN HEMMED 90" x 108" for double beds
Prices \$7.50 \$9.50 \$12.50 a pair. \$9.25 \$12.00 \$15.50 a pair

HEM-STITCHED SHEETS.
Of strong twilled sheeting, very durable.
Size 70" x 108" 90" x 108"
Prices \$8.00 a pair. \$10.50 a pair.

WHITE PLAIN WIGAN COTTON SHEETINGS.
By the yard.
Width

THE WAR.

The following cables were received on Saturday night and issued in our early morning Extra yesterday.

Franco-Belgian Front.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

INCREASED HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

LONDON, May 17th.

1.35 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We repulsed raiders in the neighbourhood of Monneville, southward of Arras.

There was great reciprocal artillery firing at night in the Pecaut Wood sector and northward of Hinges.

Hostile artillery firing also increased between Lecon and Hinges and Nieppe Forest to Metevan.

WARFARE IN THE AIR.

LONDON, May 17th.

2.00 a.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, states:—Our aeroplanes and balloons carried out a great deal of work on Wednesday in co-operation with the artillery and took a great many photographs of the enemy forward and back areas.

Bombing machines began their attacks at dawn and continued till dark, dropping over 40 tons of bombs on targets, which included railway stations at Tournai, Courtrai, Chaulnes, and billets in the neighbourhoods of Douai, Bapaume, Meun, and the Somme, also on Zebrugge and the Bruges Canal.

Enemy aircraft were active early this morning, also in the evening, attacking our bombers with particular insistence. We brought down 25 German machines, drove down twelve, and shot down one from the ground. Eleven British machines are missing.

After dark our night-fliers continued, and dropped over 14 tons of bombs on railway stations at Chaulnes, Lille, and Douai, billets at Peronne, Bray, and Bapaume, and the docks at Bruges. One British machine did not return.

Early on Thursday our aeroplanes set out to bomb factories and railway stations at Saarbrücken. Crossing the lines they encountered ten scouts, when a running fight ensued along the whole way to our objectives. When Saarbrücken was reached 20 hostile machines had collected and attacked the British with the utmost vigour. Despite the attacks we dropped 24 heavy bombs on our objectives.

Several bursts were seen on the railway and a fire was started. Having attained their objectives our aeroplanes concentrated their efforts on fighting the enemy's machines.

We brought down five. One British aeroplane was seen to have been shot down. All the others returned.

MORE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

LONDON, May 17th.

12.30 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We raided in the neighbourhood of Guvrolle and took a few prisoners.

There was reciprocal artillery firing in the Somme and Ancre valleys to the east of Arras, and on the northern battlefield. Mutual artillery is particularly great to the north of the Lys.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

We brought down eight aeroplanes on Tuesday and drove down another. Two of ours are missing.

Bombing was continued actively at night.

Twelve tons of bombs were dropped on Meun, Chaulnes and Peronne, and also on the station and billets at Bapaume, on billets south of the Somme and on the docks at Bruges. All the machines returned.

We successfully raided on Wednesday the railway station and sidings at Thioville and dropped twenty-four heavy bombs. Bursts were observed on the sheds and tracks. Furnaces were hit at Carlsruhe and a factory alongside the railway was hit four times. All the machines returned, despite heavy anti-aircraft fire.

FRENCH RECAPTURE HILL 44.

LONDON, May 17th.

8.30 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing this evening, says:—The French have retaken Hill 44, the little eminence south of Diekebusche Lake commanding good observation over the flat country north of the Mont Cats chain of hills.

The French counter-attack developed into a prolonged and desperate struggle, the fighting continuing in this region throughout the morning.

The Germans several times previously tried to take the hill before they succeeded in pressing back the French by weight of numbers on May 13th.

The weather on the whole battlefield has become blue and sunny and the sky is adone with our airmen.

ENEMY BOMBING RAIDS.

LONDON, May 16th.

10.35 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, says:—Most of the fighting during the past twenty-four hours has been aerial.

Last night, taking advantage of the clear, moonlit atmosphere, the Germans carried out a series of bombing raids against the back areas of the Allied zones. Our aeroplanes were ceaselessly busy over territory where the Germans were thickest and where their communications are most vulnerable.

A German non-commissioned officer, lately captured, throws light on the disappointment the Germans sustained in their unsuccessful attack on the Belgian front on May 17th.

He says the operation was designed to develop into a great flank-turning movement. So certain was the High Command of success that the Kaiser came to the Yser to witness the battle, having in his pocket the "Eichenlaub," the next highest German decoration to the Order Pour Le Merite, which was designed to bestow upon the General directing an attack, but when the Kaiser left the Yser the "Eichenlaub" still tinkled in his pocket.

Leave has been opened in the German Fourth Army to farmers and agricultural labourers. It is remarkable how popular the cry "back to the soil" has become.

FRENCH FRONT.

LIVELY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Paris, May 16th.

A communiqué states:—There was a fairly lively artillery duel in the sector from Hailes to Castel.

There was great reciprocal artillery activity north of the Avre.

Two German aeroplanes were brought down on May 15th and two more on May 16th.

One of our squadrons dropped 7,000 kilograms of projectiles on the railway station at Chatelet-sur-Return.

The enemy bombarded the region of Dunkirk.

There was slight damage, but no victims.

EIGHTEEN ENEMY AEROPLANES FELL.

Paris, May 16th.

A communiqué states:—There was marked reciprocal artillery activity north and south of the Avre.

Eighteen enemy aeroplanes were brought down on May 15th, and four captive balloons were set on fire.

A BELGIAN VICTORY.

LONDON, May 15th.

10.45 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at the French Headquarters, telegraphing to-day and describing the German attack on the Belgian front on April 17th in the region of Martevant, says that although the German proportion was three to one, the Belgian Division holding the sector defeated the enemy without calling for reinforcements from any quarter.

In two hours the Germans had advanced 1,500 yards on the Ypres-Dixmude road as far as Martevant Bridge, where they were held up by Belgian infantry. The front rank was cut off from reserves by the artillery barrage and had no choice but death or capture. The Belgian victory was complete.

The enemy lost three thousand men, besides eight hundred prisoners and 150 machine guns. They are not likely to renew the experiment.

BELGIAN HOSPITAL BOMBED.

LONDON, May 16th.

12.30 a.m.

A Belgian communiqué says:—An enemy aviator dropped four bombs upon a hospital at Boogstap.

The artillery action has assumed a lively character, especially in the region of Pillek.

AMERICAN REPORTS.

LONDON, May 16th.

6.00 a.m.

An American communiqué states:—There is a marked increase in reciprocal artillery firing north of Toul and in Lorraine. Two American airmen fell from German machines on Wednesday.

LONDON, May 17th.

9.20 p.m.

An American communiqué states:—Patrolling continues active in Lorraine, with an increase of artillery firing.

THE IMMINENT GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

ANXIOUS TIMES AHEAD.

LONDON, May 17th.

The imminent German offensive is anxiously awaited.

Major-General Maurice, in the *Daily Chronicle*, says that two-thirds of the whole German force in the West are concentrated between Ypres and the Oise, or one-fifth of the whole Western Front, but this is a vitally important sector, for it includes the roads to Paris and to the Channel ports. Within a strip of 50 miles, which the Allies hold between Nieuport and Amiens, the main roads run parallel to the front, which is most unsatisfactory, because an enemy success anywhere would threaten the whole communications, but though the Allied position is more cramped than on March 23rd, we, under a unified command, inflicted on the enemy very heavy losses, while the American troops have been pouring in and an Italian contingent has arrived. Generalissimo Foch has been husbanding his reserves, and he certainly now has his reserves where he wants them, and we are stronger thereby.

Anxious times are ahead, because the enemy will probably gain ground where the ground is most precious, but provided we can replace our losses there is no reason why we should not check the enemy's next blow.

Aerial Activities.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE PARIS RAIDS.

Paris, May 16th.

It is officially stated that the air raid alarm was sounded at ten o'clock this morning.

The guns opened fire and defending aeroplanes ascended.

No enemy machines reached Paris, but bombs were dropped on the suburbs.

The "All Clear" was sounded at midnight.

SEAPLANES BOMB FOLA.

LONDON, May 16th.

An Italian communiqué states:—Seaplanes bombed Fola and brought down two enemy machines. They returned unharmed.

Naval Activities.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AUSTRIAN DREADNOUGHT TORPEDOED.

LONDON, May 16th.

An Italian communiqué states that an Italian officer and three petty officers entered the port of Pola and torpedoed a Dreadnought of the *Viribus Unitis* class. The communiqué does not give any details.

DESTRUCTION OF BRITISH SUBMARINES.

LONDON, May 16th.

The Admiralty announces that seven British submarines, which remained in Russian waters, were destroyed by order between April 3rd and April 8th owing to the German naval forces approaching Hango.

None fell into enemy hands.

The guns in the vicinity of Hango had already been dismantled.

The Russians retreated after blowing up their four American submarines.

The crews of the British submarines were removed to Petrograd.

The Russian Admiral rejected a proposal to block the harbour by sinking ships in the entrance, but the destruction of the British submarines had an excellent effect, inducing the crews of merchantmen to destroy their vessels, which otherwise would have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

CREWS SAFELY LANDED.

LONDON, May 16th.

Reuter learns that all the British submarines in the Baltic were blown up before the Germans could get them and the officers and crews were safely landed.

THE UBQUITOUS BRITISH SUBMARINES.

LONDON, May 17th.

The *Morning Post's* Correspondent at Petrograd, in a message dated May 17th, states there were never more than nine British submarines in the Baltic. There were still seven when the end came.

Despite the great amount of close fighting done by the submarines in the course of three years' incessant work the German, captured or destroyed none.

There is not a German harbour in the Baltic that our submarines have not entered and chartered, creeping under minefields and through the shallowest channels.

One submarine destroyed nine enemy transports in a single day. It was the British submarine that preserved Petrograd last summer.

GERMAN VERSION.

AMSTERDAM, May 16th.

A message from Berlin states that three British submarines off Grubrah Lighthouse were blown up on learning of the approach of the German fleet.

General.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

CLASS JUSTICE IN GERMANY.

HELSINGFORS, May 16th.

There were angry scenes in the Reichstag when the Independent Socialists charged the Supreme Court with exercising class justice and strengthening the military dictatorship. Glaring instances were quoted, including the allegation that a petition for the release of a sailor was withheld until the death sentence had been carried out.

Herr Cohen paid a warm tribute to "six or seven Belgian Justices, who are imprisoned at Gros Streitz."

ANGLO-GERMAN WAR A NECESSITY.

LONDON, May 17th.

Professor Sherrington, of Oxford, sends the *Times* a memorandum of conversations he had with the theologian Professor Troeltsch at Heidelberg in August, 1907. The *Times* points out that this shows not the smallest chance of such Germany as Troeltsch being affected by Prince Lichnowsky's Memorandum.

Troeltsch said that war between Germany and England was a necessity, because England had so much it was absolutely necessary for Germany to possess in order to fulfil her rôle as a World-State. Troeltsch, when asked what possessions Germany desired, replied: "Ports and colonies in many parts of the world, Australia, South Africa, Hongkong and India."

KARL'S VISIT TO KAISER CURTAILED.

ZURICH, May 16th.

Polish circles in Berlin affirm that the Emperor Karl curtailed his visit to German Headquarters, owing to Kaiser Wilhelm's rejection of the Austrian solution of the Polish question.

CENTRAL POWERS' AGREEMENT.

AMSTERDAM, May 17th.

The *Vossische Zeitung's* Correspondent at Vienna has reported that agreements similar to those of Germany and Austria-Hungary will be concluded between the Central Powers and Bulgaria and Turkey. Definite decisions have been reached regarding Austria's armed assistance on the Western Front.

IRISH QUESTIONS.

LONDON, May 17th.

The *Daily Chronicle* states that the Government is considering the expediency of launching a scheme of voluntary recruiting in Ireland on the lines of the Lord Derby scheme. In the meantime the drafting of the Home Rule Bill is progressing.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS ARRESTED.

AMSTERDAM, May 17th.

Forwarders states that several Independent Socialists have been arrested during the last few weeks at Cologne.

THE COAL PRODUCTION.

LONDON, May 17th.

The Executive of the Miners' Federation yesterday decided to call a special conference of delegates on June 5th to decide whether or not they should demand an increase of wages.

The Shipping Controller afterwards met the Executive and appealed to them to maintain the output of coal and thus relieve the enormous pressure at the ports. The Executive promised to reconsider the question during the Whitnuntide holidays.

STRAINED SITUATION IN UKRAINE.

AMSTERDAM, May 17th.

Reports from both German and Austrian sources indicate that the situation in Ukraine remains very strained.

The Kieff Press continues to agitate against the Central Powers, despite the censorship. The state of siege at Kieff has not been raised.

Herr Erzberger, speaking in the Reichstag on May 8th, revealed the risks that German soldiers promenade Kieff undergo. The peasantry specially are discontented and anti-German, and their exasperation is increasing.

MEATLESS DAY ABOLISHED.

LONDON, May 17th.

The Press Bureau announces:—Lord Rhonda abolishes meatless days in eating places from to-day.

GERMAN SEAPLANES ATTACK DUTCH VESSELS.

THE HAGUE, May 17th.

The *Nieuwe Courant* points out that during the last three weeks German seaplanes attacked three innocent Dutch vessels outside the danger zone, and demands that the Government emphatically protest to Berlin.

"WAR TO THE DEATH."

PHILADELPHIA, May 17th.

"War to the Death" was the keynote of a speech by Mr. Taft at the opening of a "Win the War" Convention of the League to Enforce Peace, at which 4,000 prominent Americans were present.

Mr. Taft pleaded for a fighting army of 5,000,000 and eloquently outlined the situation which would arise if Germany was not defeated or if the blood-stained Christian provinces of Turkey were not liberated.

ORIGIN OF BRITISH EMPIRE ORDER.

LONDON, May 17th.

In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. Hamar Greenwood, Mr. Walter Long explained that the Colonial Office was not consulted on the question of the creation of the Order of the British Empire, which arose out of considerations not connected with the Dominions or Colonies, but when it was decided to make use of this order for the recognition of notable civilian war service in Great Britain he being rendered in the Dominions, and the Premier allowed him to communicate with the latter and leave it to the discretion of the various Premiers to make such recommendations for the honours as they thought fit, or none at all.

BESSARABIA TO BE JOINED TO ROMANIA.

LONDON, May 16th.

A message from Bucharest says that the Premier, M. Marghiloman, states that Bessarabia in its entirety, except for a slight recalculation of the northern frontier, will be joined to Rumania.

FUTURE OF JEWRY IN PALESTINE.

LONDON, May 16th.

Speaking at an official dinner at the Governorate of Jerusalem, Dr. Weizmann, explaining the aims of the Zionist Commission, said that Jewry was returning to Palestine to again create a great moral and intellectual centre. The Zionists desired to create conditions under which the development of the Jewish people would not be a detriment to any of the great communities already established in Palestine. All fears expressed openly or secretly by the Arabs that they would be ousted from their present position were unfounded. The Jews did not intend to take the supreme political power of Palestine in their hands after the war. Jews and Arabs alike had carefully watched the fates of Albania and Russia. Modern self-government needed a long and hard apprenticeship under trained and trustworthy teachers. The Zionists desired the supreme political authority of Palestine to be vested in one of the civilised democratic Powers to be selected by the League of Nations. This Power should hold Palestine in trust until self-government was practicable. Jewry would choose that Power and would announce its opinion after the war. Zionism did not believe that the internationalisation of Palestine or any form of multiple political control could be tolerated. The Armenian massacres in the Caucasus and the recent Jewish massacre in Turkestan showed that the Arab, Jew and Armenian must stand united in order to resist the forces of darkness and oppression which were threatening to overwhelm the civilised world.

AUSTRIA'S PEACE PROPOSALS.

KAISER KARL'S LETTER.

LONDON, May 16th.

Mr. Balfour, replying to questions in the House of Commons on the subject of the alleged peace proposals by Austria, said that there was a tendency to treat this subject as if it concerned Great Britain alone. It was really a delicate question of international policy and could not be discussed as if it were a domestic matter. This was a private letter written by the Emperor Karl to a relative and conveyed by the latter to the French Government under the seal of the strictest secrecy and without permission to communicate it to anyone in Great Britain except Mr. Lloyd George and the Sovereign.

Mr. Balfour admitted that this was an inconvenient way to deal with a great transaction, but it was not the fault of the British Government. The American Government was no better informed regarding the letter than he (Mr. Balfour), but it was a complete delusion to suppose therefore that the Government had over shown any lack of confidence in the Government and President of the United States. He had no secrets from President Wilson. (Cheers.) It was impossible to carry on the great work on which they were engaged without complete confidence.

Regarding Alsace-Lorraine, Mr. Balfour declared that the restoration of the Alsace-Lorraine of 1814 or of 1790 had never been an Allied war aim. Mr. Runciman must have been referring to conversations between the Emperor and the French representative, Mr. Doumergue, in connection with that matter which took place, which were unknown to the British Government until much later. They had to international bearing and they did not pledge the British Government, which had never in the least encouraged any such action, nor did he think that that demand was ever any fixed part of the foreign policy of any French Government for any length of time.

Mr. Outwaite, interrupting, said that Mr. Runciman's question referred to the statement in the Press that President Poincaré made that demand.

Mr. Balfour replied: "These *pourparlers* were not interfered with by any such demand."

Proceeding, Mr. Balfour said that it was impossible to know what actuated Emperor Karl, Count Czernin and the Kaiser in these various transactions, but he was inclined to think that it was part of a peace offensive by which the (Mr. Balfour) meant peace proposals by a party not desiring peace but desiring to divide its opponents. He thought that Mr. Clemenceau, in publishing Emperor Karl's letter, had dealt effectively with these cynical methods. He (Mr. Balfour) believed that the efforts of the Central Powers had never been directed towards peace, but to divide the Allies. There was no evidence now or at any time that the German governing classes contemplated the possibility of what we should regard as a reasonable peace, namely, a peace to secure the freedom of the world. He reminded the House that a Committee of the French Chamber had already concluded that the above letter had not provided an adequate or satisfactory basis for peace. If there had been any possibility that that letter really contained the seeds of an honourable peace, was it not evident that the Committee of the French Chamber would have expressed regret that the French Government or the Premier had thrown away that opportunity? The House of Commons might well be content with that verdict. Nobody, continued Mr. Balfour, can be more desirous than the British Government of bringing the war to an honourable termination and if any method whereby that can be accomplished can be shown us, of course, it will be accepted. But we are fighting as one among many Allies against the Central Powers, who never had, and now less than ever have, the least intention of meeting the legitimate wishes on which the whole House and the whole country were entirely agreed. These great aims were only obtainable by absolute loyalty between the Allies. (Cheers.) Mr. Balfour emphasised that a discussion of the action of foreign statesmen and the motives of a foreign Parliament and duties of foreign armies would be absolutely fatal to any alliance. Nothing should be said which would make it more difficult to carry out the task which could be accomplished if all the great Allies remained unanimous, but which would be lost irrevocably if any breach was allowed to creep in between them. (Cheers.)

Mr. Asquith expressed satisfaction that the Government would not close the door upon any honourable peace offer. He gathered from Mr. Balfour's statement that the report in the Press regarding President Poincaré's demand for Alsace-Lorraine of 1814, dated on May 14th, was without foundation as far as Mr. Balfour knew. He was also glad to hear that such a demand was never countenanced by Great Britain and had not been the settled policy of the French Government. While there ought to be no contraction, there ought to be no extension of the Allied war aims. (Cheers.)

GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER BONA FIDE PEACE OFFER.

LATER.

In the course of further debate Lord Robert Cecil, referring to the Reuter interview, dated on May 3rd, declared that not one syllable he uttered then could be construed by any fair-minded man to mean that any German peace offer must be rejected. He emphasised that the Government was as anxious of peace as any member of the House of Commons would consider any peace offer, provided it came from a reputable trustworthy source.

Referring to Russia, Lord Robert Cecil emphasised that Great Britain was anxious to do all she could to assist the Russian people. Great Britain desired to see Russia a great and powerful non-German, if not an Allied, country.

Supporting the idea of a League of Nations, Lord Robert Cecil emphasised that such could be successfully established only on the basis of just and durable territorial arrangements.

GERMAN DISCLAIMER.

AMSTERDAM, May 17th.

The *Norddeutsche* denies that Germany was willing to surrender a considerable part of Lorraine in the spring of 1917 if this would accelerate the end of the war.

THE DUTIES OF THE ALLIED PRESS.

LONDON, May 16th.

Speaking at a Foreign Press Association luncheon in London, the Chairman paid a tribute to Lord Curzon as one of the great men who had shaped the destinies not only of India but of the Empire.

Lord Curzon said that the peace for which we were fighting must satisfy three conditions: it must be just, honourable and assure the security of the world for generations from the horrors of future war. He hoped that neither the Allies nor neutrals would ever subscribe to a doctrine that an unjust peace was preferable to a just war, as the former would be the precursor of new and worse wars and be a victory for crime and a justification for renewed crime in the future. It was useless to discuss details of peace terms at present, as the voice of the guns drowned all else. The issue was becoming plainer every day. The duty of the Allied Press was to show our enemies that not only the Allied Armies, Navies and Governments, but the peoples of the whole civilised world were against them.

GERMANY COUNTS UPON INDEMNITIES.

LONDON, May 16th.

The German people are still led to expect a war indemnity. Speaking in the Reichstag, the Saxony War Minister said Germany counts upon indemnities, while Count Westrup declared that only by indemnities can German requirements be met.

"CLAN MACKAY" SUNK.

LONDON, May 16th.

A telegram from Gibraltar states that the *Clan Mackay* was sunk as the result of a collision on May 11th. The crew was saved.

THE BRAVE MERCANTILE MARINE.

LONDON, May 15th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Albert Stanley stated that 12,000 men of the mercantile marine had lost their lives in the war, but none had ever refused to sail when a vessel was ready. (Cheers.) He announced that the King had approved that a badge should be worn by officers and men of the mercantile marine who had completed a further voyage after being aboard a vessel which had been sunk or damaged by a torpedo or mine. The badge would be in the form of a torpedo and would be worn on the cuff of the left sleeve. Bars would be added for subsequent torpedoings.

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NAGASAKI KOBE & YOKOHAMA	NIKKO MARU 9,000 TONS SAT. 15th June 11 A.M.	
SHANGHAI MOJI & KOBE	HWAH-WU MARU 8,000 TONS THURS 30th May.	
LONDON OR LIVERPOOL VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, DELAGOA BAY & CAPE TOWN		
MELBOURNE VIA MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THURS. IS. TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY		
NEW YORK VIA SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL		
BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO		
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SIBERIA MARU ...	18,000	SAT, 8th June
TENYO MARU ...	22,000	SAT, 22nd June.
SHINTO MARU ...	22,000	TUES, 16th July.

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Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
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ANYO MARU ...	18,500	Sept. 6th.
NIPPON MARU ...	11,000	Nov. 6th.

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